ePortfolios at VCC

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Outline

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What are ePortfolios?

An ePortfolio is a collection of (for example) essays, presentations, research papers, journal entries, images, videos, projects, blog entries, reports, hyperlinks etc...

They can be used for a variety of purposes:
- To demonstrate personal development
- To showcase completed work
- For assessment
- To facilitate reflection, self-awareness and lifelong learning
What are ePortfolios?

The ePortfolio platforms available are generally one of the following ‘types’:

- Stand-alone ePortfolio software
- An ePortfolio element embedded in a learning management system (LMS)

For example, Exabis is a plug-in for our Moodle LMS. Mahara is a stand-alone platform (but does have Moodle integration possibilities)
Why use ePortfolios?

ePortfolios are more than just computerized versions of paper-based portfolios

For example:
- Links can be made to websites and presentations
- Information can be edited and shared easily
- Development over time can be clearly shown
ePortfolios and Curriculum

Since ePortfolios can be used for many different purposes in a course or program the learning outcomes connected to them will vary widely.

The literature indicates that the best practice for their use is to facilitate the progression of a student through a course or program (rather than as a static repository of student achievement).
ePortfolios in Education

Teacher candidates in UBC’s Faculty of Education are required to create an ePortfolio.

Nursing schools are increasingly using ePortfolios for teaching and learning (e.g. assessment of clinical competence in the UBC BSc Nursing program).

ePortfolios are being used as a foundation for a sequence of assignments in a ‘Communication and Professional Development’ course at Emory University.
ePortfolios in Education

At the University of Guelph: “Every student, faculty and staff member ... has access to the ePortfolio tool within CourseLink.”

“...users have access to a private webspace where they can create, upload and organize artifacts and reflections from their experiences, whether they be related to academic, experiential, career, extracurricular or personal pursuits. These artifacts and reflections form the building blocks to build web-based presentations which can be shared with others within and outside of the University.”
ePortfolios in Education

Popularity of ePortfolios in post-secondary education has come in waves.

They seem to be popular again. Possible reasons include:

1. They put control of learning into the hands of students (as opposed to an LMS)

2. Many great platforms now exist which are more accessible for students and even allow customization
ePortfolios in Education

Challenges for ePortfolio use in education revolve around students being able to take them from K-12 to post-secondary to employment. That is,

1. Lack of portability
2. They are not user-owned
3. They are not interoperable with other learning systems
Exabis
Exabis: Uploading Artifacts
Exabis: View Layouts
Exabis: Adding Content to a View
Exabis: A Finished View
Exabis: Sharing a View